

In maintaining this rejection, it was stated that column 14, line 62 to column 15, line 8, of Suzuki discloses the above feature. However, in this portion, Suzuki only discloses:

"Referring to Figure 11, there is depicted a diagram showing a method of designating image regions by a segmentation method. As shown, an original image 1 is divided into regions A and D, representative of four subjects and their background regions E-to G...

The image is coded using a small amount of data to define the positions and contents of the regions A to G. The definitions of positions will be usually given by drawing a peripheral line of each region and by describing coordinates of pixels constituting the line."

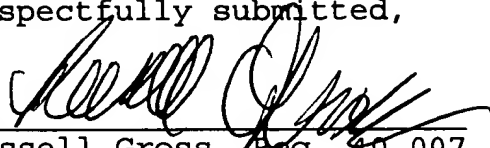
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Based on the above disclosure, it is evident that Suzuki does not disclose "selecting a representative image location from the particular group and taking the reference defining the color value for the representative image location in the source image", as required by the claims. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that this feature is not anticipated by Suzuki.

In view of the above-described distinctions, it is respectfully submitted that the invention of claims 2-12 is not anticipated by Suzuki. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn so that the present application may proceed to issue.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to credit any overpayment or charge any fee (except the issue fee) to Account No. 14-1270.

Respectfully submitted,

By   
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

It is hereby certified that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to:

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
Washington, D.C. 20231

On May 22, 2002

By Edna Chapa